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DELAWARE RIVER
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MEMORIAL.

Congress having decided to establish, and the immediate necessities of the Nation imperatively calling for the establishment of National Armories and Foundries at different points, we desire to call the attention of Congress to the advantages possessed, as a site for the same, by that portion of the Island of Matiniconk situate in the Delaware, between Burlington, in the State of New Jersey, and Bristol, in the State of Pennsylvania, belonging to the Burlington or Matiniconk Land Association. We are fully aware that many qualifications must be united, in order to constitute an eligible site for the location of such important National works. The principal qualifications necessary in the location for an Armory and Foundry we take to be—

First. The requisite power to drive the machinery demanded by such works; or, in this age where steam has so generally superseded the use of water power, facility in procuring the fuel necessary for the production, in the most economical manner, of such power.

Second. Position—where health may be enjoyed, and subsistence be cheaply obtained.

Third. A locality that shall combine, in an eminent degree, a facility of obtaining such materials and supplies as may be procured at low prices and with facility, of the character needed for carrying on such works.

Fourth. A locality that shall combine facility in the distribution, in the most convenient and economical manner, of the arms to be manufactured.

Fifth. Locality as regards safety from attack and capture during war, which may be considered a most important point.

Now, we are of the opinion that the site above named, and whose selection we desire to urge upon the Government, unites fully all the above requisites in a most remarkable degree.

The Burlington Island Land Association, at the point named, are in possession of some two hundred and fifty acres of the Island, which lies

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in the River Delaware, equidistant between the city of Burlington, in the State of New Jersey, and the town of Bristol, in the State of Pennsylvania. There are some two hundred and fifty acres of the residue of this Island still owned by the city of Burlington, but which, if necessary, will and could be purchased. The Association, however, are in possession of the most eligible and best part of the Island, with its front lying, for over three thousand feet, upon the river.

As to the first requisite above named—the power to drive machinery in the most economical manner for such works—we take it for granted that the use of steam power has been found most advantageous and most reliable, and, all things considered, more economical, than water power, by the Government. In the use of such a power, cheapness of fuel and the facility of obtaining it enter largely into the question. In this particular regard, we can safely assert that we know of no locality that combines the two in a greater degree than the site above referred to. It is located but a very few hundred yards from the coal depots of Bristol, and the mouth of the Delaware and Lehigh Canal, which brings down the wealth of the inexhaustible coal fields above; while the transportation by rail connects Bristol not only with those mines, but with those of the Lackawanna, at Scranton. There can be no point named, therefore, possessing higher advantages for procuring, and that in the most economical way, all the fuel that may be necessary for the creation of all the steam power demanded for the works of the Government.

Second. In regard to this locality as to health and the procuring of cheap subsistence, it may be safely asserted that no locality in the United States can surpass it. A very large portion of it is high ground, rising abruptly from the river, and the soil is of a dry sandy loam, and the island entirely exempt from the causes that usually produce miasmatic diseases. We can safely assert, therefore, that the workers of an armory and foundry located here would be free from the obstructions and delays consequent upon general or periodic liability to sickness among the workmen. In the matter of the cheapness of subsistence, surrounded as this island is, and in direct constant intercourse with some of the richest and most bountiful agricultural regions of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, we may safely assert, and without the hazard of contradiction, that all kinds of substantial provisions can be obtained here as cheaply as in any parts of the Union, and of most excellent quality.

Third. That it is a locality where such materials and supplies as shall be necessary for the construction of the works and the manufacture of arms can be readily obtained, will at once appear from its central position between the great cities of New York and Philadelphia, being in direct

communication with the last of these cities almost hourly by water carriage and by rail, and with New York several times a day by the last mentioned mode of transportation. Large quantities of most excellent moulding stock are to be had from several points in the immediate vicinity and of ready access; while all the timber required, such as pine, oak, walnut, and maple, can readily be had, and at reasonable prices.

Fourth. In the facility for the distribution of the articles manufactured here to any part of the Union, it is not necessary to enlarge, as its location on the great railway lines between New York and Philadelphia furnish all the evidence that may be necessary upon that point, not to mention the means of transportation that can be so readily furnished by the Delaware and Lehigh, and the Delaware and Raritan Canals—the one in the immediate vicinage, and the other commencing at Bordentown, but a few miles up the river.

Fifth. As a locality that insures comparative safety from attack in time of war, this may be said to be unsurpassed. Situate in the midst of the Delaware River, the facility by which it can be protected from attack from the land side must be self-apparent, while the fact that it is twenty miles from Philadelphia up the Delaware, where only vessels of light draught can navigate, places it in a condition of positive security from all hostile attacks by water. This is certainly a most important point to be considered in the selection of a National Armory and Foundry.

The site named has another advantage, which is, that it is located most favorably for the workmen on the score of absence of exposure to the temptations and vices that are sure to beset them in the midst or in the immediate vicinity of large cities. This fact must be considered as operating beneficially both as regards the health of the workmen and their usefulness and value to their employers.

We have thus briefly enumerated the advantages possessed by the site, for which we desire the favorable attention of the Government. But there is another point still to be urged, and that is, the claim that New Jersey has, all other things being equal, to the enjoyment of at least some of the patronage of the General Government. While neighboring States have shared most bountifully in its favors, New Jersey has been turned empty away. Not to say anything of her past services, we can dwell upon her present loyalty and devotion to the Government in the alarming crisis that is upon us. The presence of ten full regiments in the field, from a State with not more population than the city of New York, speaks louder in favor of her zeal and patriotism than any language can convey.

The establishment of a large national work within her borders would,

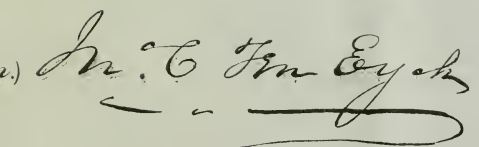
we believe, be the first instance in which she has ever been largely favored by the General Government. The Island being located directly on the boundary line between the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the advantages arising from its selection would, in a great degree, benefit the State of Pennsylvania as well as the State of New Jersey.

We believe that a careful examination of the site named is admirably calculated for the location of a National Armory and Foundry, and will at the same time furnish an opportunity to the Government of doing justice to a State whose just claims to share some of the Government patronage have been so long unheeded, and which calls loudly to assist in all that pertains to the advantage of honestly working for our country.

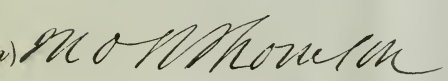
All of which is most respectfully submitted.

THOMAS E. MORRIS,
President of the Matiniconk or Burlington Island Land Association.

We, the undersigned, do hereby approve and recommend the within described Burlington Island as a very desirable situation for a national Armory and Foundry:—

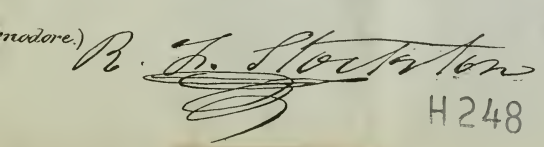


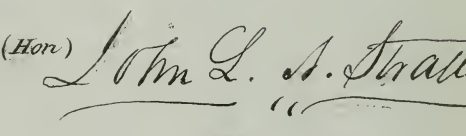
United States Senator.



United States Senator.

Ex Governor of New Jersey.





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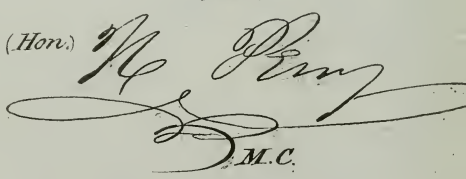

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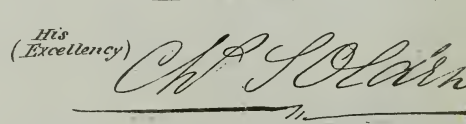
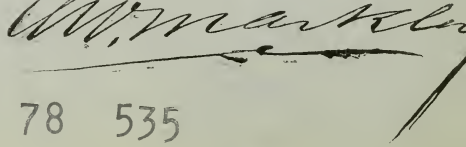


Gov.r of the State of New Jersey



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